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## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for the synthesis of severely sterically hindered secondary aminoether alcohols of the formula

wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are each selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxylalkyl radicals having 1 to 4 carbon atoms or in combination with the carbon atom to which they are attached they form a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, and R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl radicals having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl and hydroxyalkyl radicals having 1 to 4 carbons provided that at least one of R<sup>4</sup> or R<sup>5</sup> bonded to the carbon atom directly bonded to the nitrogen atom is an alkyl or hydroxyalkyl radical when R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen, the process involving reacting an acid halide or organic carboxylic acid anhydride, a ketene, or mixture of any two or of all three thereof, of the formula

$$R^{12}-C-X$$
,  $R^{12}-C-O-C-R^{13}$  or  $R^{X}$ 

wherein R<sup>12</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> are the same or different and each is selected from the group consisting of alkyl radicals having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, aryl radicals bearing hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl groups substituted thereon, and mixtures thereof, X is halogen selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, and mixtures thereof, and R<sup>x</sup> and R<sup>y</sup> are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl radicals having 1 to 4 carbon, aryl radicals bearing substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and one or more alkyl radicals, and mixtures thereof, or R<sup>x</sup> and

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Ry in combination with the carbon to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl radical having 3 to 8 carbons, with an organic sulfonic acid of the formula

$$R^{14}$$
—(SO<sub>3</sub>H)<sub>Q</sub>

wherein Q is an integer selected from 1 to 4,  $R^{14}$  is selected from the group consisting of alkyl radicals having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, haloalkyl radicals of the formula  $C_nH_{(2n+1)-z}X_z$  wherein n is 1 to 4, X is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, Br, I, and mixtures thereof, and z ranges from 1 to 5, aryl radicals of the formula

wherein R15, R16, R17, R18, and R19 are the same or different and are selected from hydrogen and alkyl radicals having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and mixtures thereof, to yield an acyl sulfonate of the formula

$$R^{12/13}$$
 C  $C - O - SO_2 - R^{14}$ ,  $R^{y} - C - C - O - SO_2 R^{14}$ 

or mixtures thereof, which is then reacted with a dioxane of the formula

$$\begin{array}{c}
R^{11} \\
R^{10} \\
R^{9} \\
R^{8}
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
R^{4} \\
R^{5} \\
R^{6}
\end{array}$$

wherein R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, and R<sup>11</sup> are the same or different and are selected from hydrogen, alkyl and hydroxyalkyl radicals having 1 to 4 carbons to yield

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or mixtures thereof, which is then aminated with an alkylamine of the formula

$$R^{1}$$
 $H_{2}N - C - R^{2}$ 
 $R^{3}$ 

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, and R<sup>3</sup> are as previously defined to yield

or mixtures thereof, which is then hydrolyzed with base to yield

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2. (original) The method of claim 1 for the synthesis of severely sterically hindered secondary aminoether alcohols using the acid halide of the formula

3. (original) The method of claim 1 for the synthesis of severely sterically hindered secondary aminoether alcohols using the organic carboxylic acid anhydride of the formula

$$R^{12} - C - O - C - R^{13}$$
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4. (original) The method of claim 1 for the synthesis of severely sterically hindered secondary aminocther alcohols using ketene, of the formula

$$R^{X}$$
  $C = C = 0$ 

- 5. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are methyl radicals.
- 6. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, are hydrogen and R<sup>x</sup> and R<sup>y</sup> are hydrogen or phenyl.
- 7. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, and R<sup>19</sup> are hydrogen and R<sup>17</sup> is hydrogen or methyl.
- 8. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein the base is selected from alkali metal hydroxide alkali metal alkoxide, alkali metal carbonate.
- 9. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are methyl, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, and R<sup>11</sup> are

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hydrogen, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, and R<sup>19</sup> are hydrogen, R<sup>17</sup> is hydrogen or methyl and R<sup>x</sup> and R<sup>y</sup> are hydrogen or phenyl.

- sulfonate is made by reacting organic carboxylic acid halide, organic carboxylic acid anhydride, ketene, mixtures of any two or of all three thereof with the organic sulfonic acid at a temperature in the range of about -20 to 150°C at a pressure between about 1 bar to 100 bars, the acyl sulfonate is reacted with dioxane at a dioxane to acyl sulfonate ratio of about 1:1 to about 10:1 at a temperature between about 50°C to about 200°C, the resulting cleavage product is reacted with alkyl amine in an amine to cleavage product sulfonate group ratio in the range of about stoichiometric to about 10:1 at a pressure of about atmospheric (1 bar) to about 100 bars, at a temperature of about 40° to about 200°C, and wherein the aminated product is hydrolyzed with base at between about 20°C to about 110°C.
- 11. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein the mixing of the anhydride, acid halide, ketene or mixture of any two or of all three thereof, the organic sulfonic acid and the dioxane is combined in a single step, the reaction mixture being heated at a temperature between about 50°C to about 200°C to produce a cleavage product, the cleavage product and the alkylamine being reacted at an amine to cleavage product ratio ranging from about stoichiometric to about 10:1 at a pressure of about atmospheric (1 bar) to about 100 bars, at a temperature of about 40°C to about 200°C, and wherein the aminated product is hydrolyzed with base at between about 20°C to about 110°C.
  - 12. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein Q is 1.